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Decline in Party Activity

1. Although the Dai Viet party has attempted to maintain contact with its members through the National Popular Party (Phong Trào Quốc Gia Bình Dân) since its fall from power, its activities are virtually paralyzed as the result of government restrictions. An attempt to unify Dai Viet ranks throughout Vietnam failed when northern and southern representatives of the party could not reach a satisfactory agreement at a meeting held in March 1951. Dai Viet activities are now limited to underground attempts to strengthen their ranks in the north, while at the same time training cadres to gain influence outside the party.

Internal Policy

2. Because the large Catholic population in the north represents a powerful political force, Dang Van Sung is attempting to regain their sympathy, with the aid of Catholic Dai Viet leaders such as Vu Quy Mao, Vu Dinh Ly and Nguyen Duy Gia. Catholic leaders in the north had supported President Tran Van Huu's ouster of Dai Viet officials from the Tonkin administration, accusing the Dai Viet of being organized on freemason lines.
3. Sung is also attempting to arrange a Dai Viet-Gao Dai alliance. While the Dai Viet was still in power, Pham Cong Tac, the Gao Dai Pope, was invited to Hanoi to discuss the formation of a united front including the two parties and followers of Pham Van Giao, former Governor of Central Vietnam. The project was abandoned as a result of the political inactivity of all three, as well as because of their divergent views.

Thanh Niên Báo Quốc Đoàn

4. The friction between the northern and southern factions of the Dai Viet is also evident in its affiliated youth movement, the Thanh Nien Bao Quoc Doan. Nguyen Ton Phan, who was dispatched to South Vietnam as Dai Viet representative in 1945, obtained government authorization for the establishment of the Bao Quoc Doan in 1949. When the group later became active in the north, Hoan criticized it for not conforming to Dai Viet policy.

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Dai Viet leaders in the north, on the other hand, describe Hoan as an extremist who is unwilling to cooperate with the northern group. Their distrust of Hoan is chiefly accounted for by their dislike of Vuong Huu Duc, northern head of the Thanh Vien Bao Quoc Doan, who was assigned to the post by Hoan. Dai Viet leaders hold a certain amount of rancour against Duc because he was able to obtain authorization for the legal operation of the Bao Quoc Doan from the Minister of Youth, Pham Van Binh, even after the ouster of the Dai Viet from the Tonkin administration.

5. The recent dissolution of the Bao Quoc Doan was actually the result of a long-time anti-Dai Viet prejudice on the part of the Governor of North Vietnam Dang Huu Chi. The assassination of General Chanson and Governor Thai Lap Thanh merely served as a pretext for this action.¹ Bao Quoc Doan members are now widely dispersed and without influence.

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